

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 EURE-00 /113 W

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P R 301513Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9713

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: GENERAL SPINOLA VISITS OPORTO

REF: LISBON 2160

SUMMARY: DURING FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OUTSIDE LISBON AS PRESIDENT, GENERAL SPINOLA REITERATED JUNTA THEME OF BUILDING A NEW, MORE JUST AND DEMOCRATIC PORTUGAL -PROVIDED DANGER OF ANARCHY IS OVERCOME. PRESIDENT GAVE STERN WARNING THAT FORCE WOULD BE USED, IF NECESSARY, TO COUNTER VIOLENCE. ENTHUSIASTIC REACTION TO HIS APPEARANCE DEMONSTRATES ENORMOUS SUPPORT JUNTA AND SPINOLA PERSONALLY COMMAND IN THE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL SPINOLA VISITED OPORTO MAY 29, ON FIRST OFFICIAL TRIP SINCE INVESTITURE AS PRESIDENT. AMCONSUL OPORTO CONFIRMS LISBON PRESS AND TC COVERAGE EMPHASIZING MASSIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC POPULAR TURNOUT GREETING GENERAL, LINING HIS ROUTE INTO CITY FROM AIRPORT AND PACKING CITY SQUARE WHERE HE SPOKE TO ESTIMATED 100,000 PERSONS.

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2. SPINOLA BEGAN BRIEF IMPROMPTU REMARKS WITH COMMENT THAT POPULACE WOULD NOT HEAR THE FORMAL ADDRESS OF THE CHIEF OF STATE, BUT ONLY THE VOICE OF "ONE PORTUGUESE, TRULY LOVING HIS COUNTRY,...ANXIOUS TO BUILD A NEW PORTUGAL". SPINOLA THEN REITERATED THEMES OF RADIO/TV ADDRESS OF JUNTA MEMBER GALVAO DE MELO (REFTEL).

3. SPINOLA VOICED HOPES FOR A NEW PORTUGAL - DEMOCRATIC, FREE, ENJOYING SOCIAL JUSTICE, WHERE ALL PORTUGUESE MAY LIVE HAPPIER AND MORE DIGNIFIED LIVES. HE CALLED FOR PEACE IN COUNTRYSIDE, FACTORIES, STREETS, AND MINDS - WITHOUT WHICH A NEW PORTUGAL CANNOT BE CONSTRUCTED. HE CALLED FOR A COMMON EFFORT TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY AND DISTRIBUTE EQUITABLY THE FRUITS OF LABOR. SPINOLA SAID DEMOCRATIC IDEAS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BEING "CRIMINALLY UNDERMINED" BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES, "IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE NATION", SEEKING DESTRUCTION, ANARCHY, ECONOMIC CHAOS AND UNEMPLOYMENT. SPINOLA SUMMED UP BY OUTLING THE FIRST GREAT CHOICE WHICH PORTUGUESE PEOPLE MUST MAKE: EITHER DOMESTIC LIBERTY OR ANARCHY. HE WARNED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE FORCE TO COUNTER VIOLENCE, SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE GOALS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT SINCE THEY POSSESS "THE LIGITIMATE AUTHORITY OF ONE WHO ACTS IN DEFENSE OF GENUINE FREEDOM OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE".

4. COMMENT: GENERAL SPINOLA'S OPORTO APPEARANCE DEMONSTRATES THAT CHIEF DOMESTIC CONCERNS OF JUNTA/PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ARE STABILIZING ECONOMY AND TE CALMING OF PUBLIC APPREHENSIONS OVER WHAT THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE INCLUDES REASSURANCE (TO THOSE WHO ARE NERVOUS), CIVIC INSTRUCTION (TO THOSE WHOSE IMPATIENCE HAS LED THEM TO DEMONSTRATE OR STRIKE), AND WARNING (TO THOSE UNSPECIFIED "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" WHO SEEK TO PROFIT POLITICALLY FROM CONTINUING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TURMOIL). AS IN THE CASE OF GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO'S TV ADDRESS (REFTEL), THE WATCHWORDS IN DESCRIBING GOP POLICY IN THIS REGARD ARE PATIENCE, MODERATION AND FIRMNESS. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT SPINOLA'S CALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR CALM IS ECHOED BY THE LEFT, INCLUDING PCP AND NASCENT PRO-COMMUNIST LABOR FEDERATION (DETAILS BY SEPTTEL). PRESUMABLY FORTUITOUSLY, HIS SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED BY END OF STRIKES BY BAKERS AND TRANSPORT WORKERS IN LISBON. SCOTT

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